

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 2278 - SB 2316**

March 10, 2016

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Authorizes the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) to electronically submit their report to the Commissioner of the Department of Correction on mental health examination findings of inmates eligible for release, when such reports are conducted by TDMHSAS upon the Commissioner's request.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**NOT SIGNIFICANT**

Assumptions:

- TDMHSAS currently has the authority to examine all persons eligible for release or about to be paroled from the penal institutions of the state once they are properly staffed and equipped.
- If and when TDMHSAS is properly staffed and equipped and the examination is possible, upon the request of the Commissioner of the Department of Correction, TDMHSAS is to examine all such persons with the view of determining whether the persons are mentally ill or have symptoms of mental illness.
- The proposed legislation simply authorizes TDMHSAS to submit any future reports electronically.
- Based on information provided by TDMHSAS, the Department is not properly staffed and therefore does not examine all persons eligible for release.
- The Board of Parole does contract with TDHMSAS to perform pre-release risk assessments on sex offenders.
- Submitting any future reports by electronic means will not significantly impact state operations and will not result in a significant decrease in state expenditures.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee".

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

/jem

**HB 2278 - SB 2316**